

Flathead Road and Bridge Advisory Committee
Advisory Committee Meeting
March 11, 2010
Solid Waste District Board Room-County Landfill

1. Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Mike Schlegel-Chairman, Karl Schrade-Vice Chairman, Charles Lapp, Tom Sands, Dave Hilde

Committee Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Public Works Director Dave Prunty, Operations Manager Guy Foy, Recording Secretaries Patti Vernarsky and Karen Rogers

Public Present: Kay McDonald, Linda Smith

2. Introductory Remarks: None

3. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes - **Action Required**

Charles Lapp moves to approve the minutes from February 11, 2010 meeting, Dave Hilde seconds the motion. All in favor; motion passed, minutes approved.

4. Action Agenda

5. Directors Report

a. Transportation Plan

Dave Prunty notified the committee that the transportation plan booklets were distributed for their review. He stated this is the latest draft from the joint meetings and discussion can be put onto the agenda for next month which would give the board time to go through the plan. He asked the committee would like to have Jeff Harris here for the next meeting. Committee members said no that Jeff Harris does not need to be at the meeting.

b. Criteria for Dead End Roads (continued)

Mike Schlegel asked if the board needed to vote on the criteria for the dead end roads. Dave Prunty replied no, the commissioners will have the ultimate decision. He continued the commissioners have seen the criteria and the list of roads.

Mike Schlegel asked if the board needed to make a motion. Dave Prunty replied yes, the board will have to make a motion for the list of recommended roads.

Charles Lapp asked what the plan for a public meeting is. Dave Prunty stated a public meeting is at the commissioner's discretion. The commissioners have the right to decide what roads have maintenance under state law without a public meeting. Charles stated a public meeting will be a critical item. Dave Prunty stated that each road will have to be evaluated to see how many of the criteria pertain to the roads.

Tom Sands stated the statement should be changed to read one or more to criteria needs to be met.

Dave Hilde asked about the statement of stopping maintenance of snow plowing. He felt this is very confusing, that all maintenance is going to be stopped including with the snow plowing. Dave Prunty agreed and the statement would be changed.

Mike Schlegel asked that with this board being part of this decision making do we need to make a motion with the changes for the commissioners. **Tom Sands made motion to approve the criteria with the changes discussed. Charles Lapp second. All in favor; motion passed, criteria approved with changes to state one or more criteria and the stopping of all maintenance including snow plowing starting in the fall of 2010.**

Charles Lapp stated he would help with explanation to the public. Tom Sands felt there should be a press release in the paper for the public that way the facts are on the table before the public meeting.

c. Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) Projects for 2010

Dave Prunty explained that two meetings ago this board asked about the Resource Advisory Committee and the allotment of money received from the forest service to utilize on project. The committee's task is to receive proposals from different entities, and then they decide which projects will receive funding.

Dave stated we have three approved applications one for \$7,700 on the Blankenship Road for dust abatement, second one for \$33,000 on Mountain Meadows which includes putting down six inch lift of crush with bentonite on the roadway and fix drainage and the final application is \$10,250 for dust abatement on the North Fork Road. Mike Schlegel asked what the criteria are to pick the roads for these applications. Dave Prunty replied that the roads have to provide access to national forest. He stated there are 15 people on this committee including government people, private citizens, Jim Dupont

from the commissioners, FWP, Forest Service. Tom asked why someone from the road advisory committee isn't on the Resource Advisory Committee. He asked if the commissioners shouldn't appoint one of them to be on the committee. Mike Schlegel stated it's the Forest Service that decides who is on the committee. Tom asked Dave Prunty to ask the commissioners to request one of the advisory committee members be put on the Resource Advisory Committee group.

Tom Sands moved for Dave to ask the commissioners, Dave Hilde seconds the motion. All in favor; motion passed, request for Dave Prunty to ask the commissioners for a member of the Road Advisory Committee be placed on the Resource Advisory Committee approved

Karl Schrade asked if there were more applications than funding in the dust cost share program, how the roads would be rated. Dave Prunty replied that the rating would be based on ADT.

d. Engineer for Road Department

Dave Prunty stated there had been previous discussion about an in house engineer on staff. He stated there had never been one in the past. Mike Schlegel asked about Marc Pitman and Bernie Windauer as they were both engineers. Guy replied they were not hired to do engineering services or surveying and that is what this discussion is about to hire an in house engineer or surveyor.

Dave Hilde moved to not authorize the hiring of an engineer. Tom Sands seconded. Karl Schrade asked if there is a savings. Dave Prunty stated there has never been anything in the budget for an engineer. Questions were asked about Ryan's costs. Dave Prunty stated there is \$60,000 for engineering services. Mike Schlegel asked if the county hired a surveyor would it take two people Charles stated the county already has a surveyor. Dave Prunty replied the county hires an outside consultant. Tom Sands stated if the county was to have a surveying staff it would cost approximately a quarter million dollars. Dave Prunty stated the county doesn't have enough work for a full time person to do both engineering and surveying. Charles asked how much was actually paid for engineering and surveying services this year. **Karl called for vote on the motion to not hire an engineer. Three in favor; one opposed, motion passed to not authorize the hiring of an engineer.**

Charles stated he would like to continue on with the engineering discussion and would like to request the cost of engineering in 2009. Dave Prunty stated the staff will put together FY09 costs separating engineering and surveying costs that the county has paid.

6. Comments from the Committee Members

Dave Hilde asked about the road department having to pay for the Mennonite Church RSID. Dave Prunty stated this is an article that was discovered tonight on the Flathead Beacon. Dave Hilde asked about the North Shore Development and the settlement as to who is responsible. Dave Prunty replied the road department has not received any information on this settlement. Dave Hilde asked where the statement came from that the funds would come out of the road department budget. Mike Schlegel stated that sentence is in the settlement agreement. Dave Prunty stated approximately four weeks ago the commissioners, attorneys and a mediator discussed what the best settlement would be. Mike Schlegel asked how the county road department can afford to cover these settlement costs. Tom Sands stated hopefully this development will not happen; there is a conservation group that is trying to buy the property.

Charles asked about the budget spreadsheet and if the committee is to review the sheets. Dave Hilde asked about the professional services accounts. Dave Prunty stated these are for engineering services or surveying. He stated those accounts could be for an accountant or an attorney, any kind of professional service. Discussion continued about the different professional services accounts and the expenditures being paid from those accounts.

Dave Hilde asked to see the new budget for FY11. Dave Prunty said the budget will be put on the next agenda, but he reminded the committee the revenues are not generated by the road department, the finance department takes care of that portion of the budget.

7. Comments from Public (15 Minutes Maximum)

Linda Smith asked about the proposal for the charge on license plates and if the fees would go into a road fund for paving or if it is a dead issue. Mike Schlegel replied that probably not from the commissioners stand point, but from this committee the license tax is a dead issue. Linda asked if it was true the county would help pay for subgrade work for through traffic on an RSID. Dave Prunty stated that was correct, the county would pay for a portion of any through traffic, as for the subgrade he could not confirm.

Kay McDonald stated it is really tough to go door to door to ask your neighbors to sign a petition to get the road paved, when there are no costs associated. The neighbors want to know the costs and with the current economy, the times are tough.

8. Adjournment

Karl Schrade made the motion to adjourn, Tom Sands seconded, all in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.